



# *The Doctor Is In*

By  
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## *A Virtuous Government With Virtuous Citizens*

*When Manny Pacquiao raised his hand in victory I wanted to raise my hands too because like all the Filipinos around the world I was also in cloud 9 with joy. But then it was spoiled when I saw the face of Noli De Castro.*

**NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 12 (PinoyGlobal)** - This year our very own boxing icon *Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao* made two breath-taking scores in his career as a boxer. He defeated the Welterweight Champion David Diaz who fell facedown on the 7<sup>th</sup> round of their 12 round title fight. Last week, Manny again out scored and outfought the acclaimed world’s greatest boxer Oscar De La Hoya who begun as a teenage throb in the boxing arena at the Olympics in 1992 after he won and became champion. Thereafter, he rose to heights not many boxers achieved. Oscar became 10 times champion in little over a decade in his professional boxing career.

Pacman made Oscar look like a joke in the ring. He was taller by 4 inches but Pacquiao cut his size to a midget by raining De La Hoya’s face and midrib with smashing punches. Finally on the 9<sup>th</sup> round Oscar refused to continue and went straight to the corner of Pacquiao to concede his defeat. It was the most glorious moment I saw of a Filipino boxer being recognized and honored by the world of boxing aficionados as the greatest boxer “pound for pound” in his division today.

If you haven’t seen this fight it’s because you were working or you did not have access to pay per view on TV. But I know for sure that every Filipino, not only men but women as well, wanted in his/her heart to see the much

awaited bout of boxing giants. Perhaps some women imagined themselves as Pacquiao punching their wayward husbands.

Manny’s popularity now transcends all the issues of age, race, religion, sex and economic status. High-ranking MBA players, Mike Tyson, politicians from the U. S., Philippines and other parts of the world, were watching him that night in Las Vegas. With all the crises going on in the world the victory of Pacquiao was an escape from that grim reality that threatens the very foundation of nations affected by the economic meltdown.

As I was hearing the comments of the fight on television, I felt I was listening to the famous radio program during my days back home “Dear Kuya Eddie” that never failed to give me a feeling of comfort as it did to most Filipinos then. Media people know he (Pacman) is now more popular than Britney Pears even without the vagina pics she uses to hype her popularity. He is now more popular than the Beatles. Yes, he can sing too.

Some people criticize the way he speaks English but I don’t find anything wrong in it. He talks with his heart and even though it takes him time to say something because in his mind he has to translate the question to his language before giving his answer in his faulty English, nevertheless his message is very clear to me. There are Filipinos who try to speak or imitate the

Dr. Erie Agustin graduated in Medicine at the University of the East in 1980. From 1984-1988 he was a Rural Health Doctor in Pangasinan. He came to the US in 1988, and was an ER doctor at Wyckoff and Parkway Hospitals for many years. In 2003, he opened his own clinic which thrives until the present day.

Americans in speaking English but they don't make sense. I remember my good friend Heber Bartolome. He never understood why he had to pay a fine every time he spoke in Tagalog in school. But still when he spoke in English people laughed at him. That puzzled him because he was very sensible in Tagalog. In fact he became a song-writer whose songs became best sellers to the common man.

Pacquiao sends a strong message with his Visayan accent that we Filipinos are something else other than tutas, yayas or a bunch of corrupt officials. When Manny Pacquiao raised his hand in victory I wanted to raise my hands too because like all the Filipinos around the world I was also in cloud 9 with joy. ***But then it was spoiled when I saw the face of Noli De Castro.*** He is our vice president but he flew to Las Vegas even though the Philippines is undergoing serious financial crisis. Yet there he was wasting the people's money if he used it for his trip and for his expenses in Las Vegas. If he did not well then he wasted his time in America when there is much for him to do in his cabinet position. I believe he is the Secretary of Social Welfare.

Adding to his ill-considered trip to the Mecca of gambling in Nevada, were senators, congressmen, governors, mayors, etc. who joined the fun there, too. They should have been watching the event on TV. Imagine if the vice president of America or Mexico would go on stage and raise De La Hoya's hand, how would their people feel about them?

It's understandable that during the famous Ali and Frazer fight (Thrilla In Manila) in the 70s, President Marcos went to the ring because he hosted the fight there. The camera was not even focused on Noli when Pacquiao introduced him as the vice president of the Philippines. This was not only embarrassing to him but to the Filipino nation as a whole.

It looks like the impeachment process was junked right away so that these important politicians could rush to Las Vegas to watch the fight. I wonder where they got their money. I wonder too how many of the 29 who voted to impeach GMA were able to go to Las Vegas. I am sure they did not get fabulous dole outs for supporting the impeachment.

Noli's face had a smile but it was a smile that reminds me of the failure of our government to deal with corruption. Despite our officials' corruption nobody has yet voluntarily resigned, or seriously prosecuted much less

impeached, least of all sent to jail in our the country. How can the Philippines be great again this way?

America is great because it does not tolerate presidents like GMA. When President-elect Obama heard about Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois tried to sell his Senate seat to the highest bidder, right away he asked him to resign. I wonder what the Americans will do if Gloria was president of the United States with all the charges of corruption against her. The Philippines cannot sustain a corrupt government any longer. The reason we are still afloat is because of the overseas Filipino workers. But this will not last forever.

A teacher who came to America told me what her thoughts were when she boarded the plane for the U.S. – ***".....ina niyong gobyerno. Kung hindi sa inyo hindi ko gagawin ito."*** She had to leave her kid and her husband whom she loved so much and her students so dear to her to be alone in a cold country away from home to teach foreign students. And yet one of them pushed her in the stairs because she scolded him for fighting inside the class.

Several teachers in America are laid off after a year even though they had a 2-year contract. The sad thing is that they owe money back home, which they borrowed to come to the U.S. and it takes 2 years to pay the debt. They expected to get even in 2 years but in less than a year they were laid off. What will happen to their families back home is now in Pres. Arroyo's conscience.

Wyckoff Hospital laid-off about 30 Filipino nurses. They were only given merits. They were the first ones to go because they were the newest employees even though the hospital appreciated so much their performance but it had no choice. And so they had to go.

That's why we cannot have GMA any longer. It's so scary how she handles our government money. We should see or watch closely the people in the government who are part of her of corruption. Let us hold our hands together and gather our strength to uproot this tree of corruption.

Manny Pacquiao you were once poor but now your life has changed for the better. It is now your chance to help the poor. Please join us in our struggle to fight corruption for if you do then Noli De Castro won't have to be raising your hand but all the Filipino people will.

I am reminded of Confucius who said, "A virtuous government will have virtuous citizens."#